

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Supplemental Environmental Projects

Name of Organization

Cayucos Lioness Club

Location: City and County

Cayucos, San Luis Obispo, CA

Typical Range of Project Costs
e.g. \$1000 - \$5000

\$3000 - \$5000

Brief Description of types of projects your organization does,
e.g. stream restoration, citizen monitoring, education, etc.
(1 to 2 paragraphs)

The Cayucos Lioness Club, a non profit service organization, has installed 22 "Mutt Mitt" holders at parks and beach access areas in the town of Cayucos. Mutt Mitts are biodegradable disposable bags that are used to pick up pet droppings. The club has raised money to support the program while educating residents and visitors to the potential health risk, environmental hazards and pollution danger to our beaches, creeks, groundwater and parks if feces are not disposed of properly. Holders are currently located in Andrews Park at Third Street, Hardey Park, the Vet's Hall, the Post Office, the Cemetery and most beach access points including the Toro Creek beach access. The Cayucos Lioness are the sole provider of this service for Cayucos. We estimate the cost per year of providing mutt mitts for existing stands is from \$3000 to \$5000 and we are in need of financial support for this project.

Studies have shown that up to 95% of the fecal coliform found in urban storm water is of non-human origin. Bacteria source tracking studies in the Seattle, Washington area found that nearly 20% of the bacteria could be matched with dogs. Christopher Kitts, a microbiologist at Cal-Poly stated that at Morro Bay, dogs contribute roughly 10% of the E.Coli found on our beaches "And that can be the difference between a beach closing and a beach not closing". We are very concerned with our local water quality. Since dogs are no longer allowed on the beaches in Morro Bay we have seen a marked increase in the Cayucos dog population. We believe our efforts are vital for the continued protection of the quality of water and the health and safety of our citizens.

Since the Cayucos Lioness are the sole providers of this service for Cayucos and the cost is rising each year, we would like to request that our project be considered for funding as an environmental mitigation project by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

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